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Date: August 1, 2011

To: Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability/Notice of Intent to Adopt and Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Proposed Big Pine Northeast Regreening Project

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing to implement the Big Pine Northeast Regreening Project located in Inyo County, California. As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the LADWP has prepared an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) which evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project.

Project Location

The proposed project is located in Inyo County, northeast of the town of Big Pine in the Owens Valley. The project site is south of State Route 168, east of Highway 395 and west of the Big Pine Canal.

Project Description

Under the Big Pine Northeast Regreening, 30 acres of abandoned agricultural land would be irrigated and seeded with a pasture mix to support livestock grazing. Implementation of the project will mitigate for impacts caused by abandoned agriculture and groundwater pumping activities as identified in the 1991 EIR "Water from the Owens Valley to Supply the Second Los Angeles Aqueduct, 1970 to 1990 and 1990 Onward, Pursuant to a Long Term Groundwater Management Plan" (LADWP, 1991).

Water will be supplied by surface water obtained from the Big Pine Canal. This will require the construction of a sump (concrete basin) from which water will be pumped. In addition, a single wooden power pole will be installed to provide power to the sump location to run the pump. The project will be supplied with up to 150 acre-feet of water per year by surface water from the above-named source. On an annual basis, an equivalent amount of water will be pumped from Well W375 to make-up for the surface water supplied to the project. Water supplied to the project will be contingent upon the Technical Group exempting well W375 for the Project under the provisions described by the Water Agreement. Additional project components include minor site cleanup, preparation of soil for seeding, fencing of the area and installation of a sprinkler system. A designated lessee will be responsible for the on-going maintenance of the pasture, which includes the use of livestock to graze the area.

Water and Power Conservation . . . a way of life

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 Mailing address: Box 51111, Los Angeles 90051-5700
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Public Review Period

The IS/ND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning August 3 and concluding September 1, 2011. The electronic version of the IS/ND may be viewed on line at <http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>. Printed copies of the IS/ND are also available for review at the following locations:

LADWP
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Ms. Nancy Chung
(213) 367-0404

LADWP
300 Mandrich Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Attn: Ms. Lori Gillem
(760) 873-0407

Bishop Branch Library
210 Academy Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Attn: Reference Section
(760) 873-5115

**Comments on the IS/ND must be received in writing no later than 5:00 p.m.,
September 1, 2011 and sent to:**

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Assessment and Planning
Attention: Ms. Nancy Chung
111 North Hope Street, Room 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Chung at (213) 367-4710.

All comments received related to issues discussed in the IS/ND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners for final consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the IS/ND, please contact Ms. Nancy Chung at (213) 367-0404.

Signature 
Charles C. Holloway
Manager of Environmental Planning & Assessment